

**SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
OCTOBER 4, 2006 MEETING MINUTES**

At 7:30 PM, Director Ware opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Ware stated that adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act had been given of this meeting and read the Open Public Meetings Act statement.

On roll call, the following Freeholders were present: Deputy Director Bobbitt, Freeholders Timberman, Lindenmuth, Sullivan, Simmermon, Bestwick, and Director Ware.

Motion was made by Freeholder Bobbitt to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the September 20, 2006 meeting and that the Minutes be received, approved and recorded in the Minute Book. Freeholder Sullivan seconded the motion. Freeholder Bestwick noted two corrections, page 3, she did not call for the roll call, and on page 4 the discussion involving the position of Administrator was not clear. Motion passed to accept with corrections 7-0.

Freeholder Bobbitt moved to waive the rules for Resolutions 2006-392, 2006-393, and 2006-394, which was seconded by Freeholder Sullivan. On roll call, the motion carried a vote of 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

Bond Ordinance 2006-03

BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF THE
SALEM COUNTY BRANCH OF THE WEST JERSEY SHORT LINE
IN THE COUNTY OF SALEM, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF
\$2,698,000 THEREFORE; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE
COUNTY OF SALEM, NEW JERSEY IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO
\$2,563,100; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS;
AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

Clerk of the Board, Earl Gage further noted that at this time no letter of authorization had been received from the Department of Transportation, therefore, there will be no motion to adopt this evening.

Freeholder Bobbitt moved to open the public hearing, which was seconded by Freeholder Sullivan. On roll call, the motion carried a vote of 7-0. Having no member of the public speak regarding this ordinance, Freeholder Bobbitt moved to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Freeholder Sullivan. On roll call, the motion carried a vote of 7-0.

INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2006-04

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE
SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS TO INCREASE THE
SIZE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE COUNTY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Freeholder Bobbitt moved to introduce Bond Ordinance 2006-04, which was seconded by Freeholder Sullivan. On discussion, Freeholder Bestwick had some questions. Question #1: why are we looking to increase the Board, to which Director Ware stated that State Statute allows for this, and feels that it would be prudent to do so. Freeholder Bestwick asked but why, and Director Ware stated that because of recent happenings with the Board it is advisable to increase the number of same. Freeholder Bestwick then commented so you really have no reason to do so. Director Ware stated that we are allowed to do so and we should. Question #3 from Freeholder Bestwick was who made the recommendation to do so, and Director Ware stated that Superintendent Adams has been speaking to Administrator Gage and have confirmed on this. Freeholder Bestwick's question #4 stated who is putting forward this ordinance? Director Ware stated that we are the Administration committee. Freeholder Bestwick began to ask another question, Director Ware stated that Freeholder Bestwick had asked her limit, by the rules of the Board. Freeholder Bestwick argued that "you" are not going to shut me up since it did not go through my committee and I have many questions. Director Ware stated that this ordinance increases the number of the Board but does not appoint additional members. Freeholder Bestwick called for a point of order stating that since it did not go through her committee she has additional questions. Director Ware stated that Freeholder Bestwick had her two questions and comments. Freeholder Simmermon asked since the Board is made up of two democrats and two republicans will that stay the same and does the ordinance state that. Director Ware responded that the ordinance does not say that but state statues mandates this. Freeholder Lindenmuth concurred that the statue calls for polity. Freeholder Timberman stated that she feels that the increase is valid and the Board ought to be increased by all that the statue will allow, up to twelve members if applicable because the more public voices involved the better. On roll call, the vote carried 6 for, 0 against, 1 abstention (Freeholder Bestwick).

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Proclamation Recognizing Alloway Township for the Renovations and Completion of the Senior Center and Municipal Office Complex was read by the Clerk of the Board

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A special presentation was made concerning the high quality of Salem County spinach, which Salem County is first in the state for spinach production, and that New Jersey is the fourth largest producer of spinach in the nation. This was followed by a number of farmers who attested to the quality of our spinach. The Freeholders and all members of the public sampled various spinach dishes.

Jeff Ridgway & Jim Waddington presented various facts on the Alms House. They noted that it is questionable weather or not the building would last another winter. They stated that the ad hoc committee chaired by Freeholder Simmermon has held numerous meetings with local and state officials concerning the project. The total cost of the stabilization will be in the area of \$600,000. Approximately half of which has been applied for from the State of New Jersey Historic Trust, but that if awarded will not be available until March of 2007. It was also noted that to release these funds, the building must be on the State Historic Registry. Freeholder Bestwick asked what amount was budgeted for this, Director Ware stated that \$238,000 remained in the budgeted line item that the total cost of the project would be in the area of \$600,000. Joanne Bell requested that she review the documents. Freeholder Timberman asked if additional monies would be available once it was put on the Registry. Jim Waddington stated that this was a possibility. Freeholder Bestwick questioned the status of the Court House renovations. Mr. Waddington responded that the project application was also still under consideration. He further noted that the State may at some point ask which project we would favor. Director Ware also noted that Dorothy Gusso from the state gave us encouraging words. Jean Jack from Preservation Salem encouraged the Freeholders to take action. Freeholder Bobbitt noted that the previous administration had not done anything on this building and that is why it is in the condition that it is. Freeholder Simmermon commented that this action will not commit future Freeholder Boards to full restoration; however after many meetings and discussions he favored spending the demolition money to help preserve this building. Freeholder

Bestwick stated that she was not prepared to spend eight million to rehabilitate the building without a firm use; can it ever be torn down? Mr. Waddington responded that the state usually was fairly even handed when dealing with governmental entities in the problems of this type.

Freeholder Bobbitt motioned to begin the process of allocating funds for the stabilization of the Alms House, which was seconded by Freeholder Sullivan. The motion carried a vote of 7-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

GENERAL

Barbara Irvine, Executive Director, New Jersey Historic Trust – letter regarding the Salem County Alms House Application

Middlesex County – resolution urging passage of Assembly Bill 1707 and Senate Bill 1522 providing for the establishment and support of county offices for the disabled

Thomas H. Strong, Sr, Pennsville Township Mayor – letter regarding the removal of deer carcasses from County and local roads

Herbert W. Roeschke, Public Health Coordinator, Salem County Department of Health and Senior Services – 2 pieces of correspondence

- Notice of the 2005 County Environmental Health Act Grant budget modification
- Notice of the 2007 NJ Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan

Dennis A. Collins, Esq. – Public Notice that CJS Investments, Inc. has applied to the Planning Board of the Township of Mannington for a Preliminary Major Subdivision Approval

Harry F. & Sherri D. Glemser, Upper Pittsgrove Township residents – letter of protest regarding the contents of a letter sent to residents from the Upper Pittsgrove Republican Club

Capt. George Kumor, area waterman – letter with attachments supporting the Army Corps of Engineers plan to destroy the VX nerve agent

Curt Harker, Records Manager, Salem County Office of Archives and Records Management – letter regarding the Records Management Analyst Job Specification

Tina Ahrens, Operations Division, Superior Court of New Jersey – Court Security Committee September 28th Minutes

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

For the Months of July & August

Southern Railroad Company of New Jersey

For the Month of August

Veterans Services

For the Month of September

Adjuster

Emergency Services Staff Meeting

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION MINUTES

Alcohol & Drug Abuse Advisory Committee September 14th Minutes and November 9th Agenda

Safety Committee June 27th Minutes and hand-outs from the August 22nd meeting

Board of Social September 28th Agenda.

Motion was made by Freeholder Bobbitt to accept and file the correspondence, departmental reports, and the committee and commission reports. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Sullivan. On roll call, the motion carried a vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Freeholder Bobbitt that all Bills and Claims, when properly signed and audited, be paid and charged to their respective accounts. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Sullivan. On roll call, the motion carried a vote of 7-0.

Motion was made by Freeholder Bobbitt that the Treasurers Report be received and filed, subject to audit, and that a copy be made available to the public, upon request, for its review. Freeholder Sullivan seconded his motion, which carried a vote of 7-0.

Director Ware noted that if there were no objections, the resolutions would be read in bulk.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE – Ware, Bobbitt, Sullivan

R. 2006-380

RESOLUTION AWARDING AN EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES CONTRACT
TO ACCESS SYSTEMS CONSULTING, INC. TO PREPARE
MUNICIPAL ELECTRONIC/PAPER RECORDS MANAGEMENT SHARED SERVICES STUDIES

R. 2006-381

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE
FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR AND CLERK OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
COUNTY OF SALEM BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS AND THE
SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY OF SALEM AND
SALEM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
COVERING SALEM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICERS

Freeholder Bobbitt moved for adoption of these two resolutions, with Freeholder Sullivan seconding his motion. On roll call, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried a vote of 7/0.

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – Simmermon, Bestwick, Ware

R. 2006-382

RESOLUTION REQUESTING A BUDGET MODIFICATION OF THE
2006 COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONTRACT

R. 2006-383

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR AND
THE CLERK OF THE BOARD TO SIGN THE HEALTH SERVICE GRANT APPLICATION
FOR THE 2007 COMPREHENSIVE ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROJECT

Freeholder Simmermon moved for adoption of these two resolutions, with Freeholder Bestwick seconding his motion. On roll call, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried a vote of 7/0.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Lindenmuth, Bobbitt, Timberman

R. 2006-384

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
EXECUTING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE
NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
(Safe Roadways Project Grant)

R. 2006-385

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE
IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO R.S. 40A:4-87, CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948
(\$70,000 – Safe Roadways Project Grant)

R. 2006-386

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
EXECUTING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE
NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Freeholder Lindenmuth moved for adoption of these three resolutions, with Freeholder Bobbitt seconding his motion. On roll call, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried a vote of 7/0.

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – Timberman, Lindenmuth, Sullivan

R. 2006-387

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE
SALEM COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY
(Paul Morris)

R. 2006-388

RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY SITUATION AS TO THE
CONTINUED SAFETY, STABILITY, AND RELIABILITY OF THE
SALEM COUNTY RAILROAD FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2006-389

RESOLUTION FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE
IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO R.S. 40A:4-87, CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948
(\$209,245 – Railroad Improvement Project – Oldman's Creek Trestle)

R. 2006-390

RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR RAILROAD REPAIR
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(\$209,245 – TRAC, Inc.)

Freeholder Timberman moved for adoption of these four resolutions, with Freeholder Lindenmuth seconding his motion. On roll call, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried a vote of 7/0.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – Bobbitt, Bestwick, Simmermon

R. 2006-391

RESOLUTION PROHIBITING NORMAL TRAFFIC
PARVINS MILL ROAD, COUNTY ROAD #645 AND ALMOND ROAD, COUNTY ROAD #540
IN PITTSBORO TOWNSHIP, SALEM COUNTY

R. 2006-392

RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2006-336 APPROVING A CONTRACT

FOR DEER CARCASS REMOVAL FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2006-393

RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(\$7,500 - M&S Pet Removal)

R. 2006-394

RESOLUTION PROHIBITING NORMAL TRAFFIC
SOUTH RAILROAD AVENUE, COUNTY ROAD #602 IN OLDMANS TOWNSHIP,
COUNTY OF SALEM

Freeholder Bobbitt moved for adoption of these four resolutions, with Freeholder Bestwick seconding his motion. On roll call, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried a vote of 7/0.

Under Unfinished Business, Freeholder Bestwick questioned the waiving of the rules and the need for resolutions concerning the Alms House. Clerk of the Board, Earl Gage explained that the motion gave the committees direction by the Freeholder Board to proceed with the project. Formal resolutions would be forthcoming that would actually bind the Board.

Freeholder Bestwick: revisited the ordinance for the Vo-tech Board. Who brought the action forward? Director Ware responded that the Administrator had spoken to the Superintendent of the Vo-tech. She further asked why it did not come through the committee. Director Ware noted that by statute we are permitted to increase the Board. Mrs. Bestwick asked if there were any conversations with Dr. Adams. Mr. Gage responded that there were two conversations. One in the spring when Dr. Adams advised us of the new statute, and there were also discussions about two weeks ago when Dr. Adams provided the back up documentation necessary for the Ordinance. Freeholder Lindenmuth questioned what committee and what would have been discussed. Freeholder Bestwick responded the Public Services committee. Freeholder Lindenmuth questioned when was the last time there was a meeting of that committee. Freeholder Bestwick stated that it was discussed in closed session. Director Ware directed that all comments should go through the chair. Freeholder Bestwick further commented that she is in favor of increasing the Board, but disagrees with the procedure of not going through the proper committee. She further asked if the intent was to keep the Board even politically since the ordinance does not address the subject. The solicitor responded that the statute dictates the make up of the Board.

Under New Business, Director Ware issued a statement concerning the use of emails and the internet on County time. He stated that this would not be tolerated and that he was further directing the Administrator and the Public Information Officer to not do political business for any Freeholder on County time.

Freeholder Timberman commented on her recent attendance at the State NACO meeting, where in issues such as deer carcass removal, property taxes, Port security, and shared services were discussed. She also discussed her attendance at the national meeting of NACO. She elaborated on the benefits of belonging to that organization as to the prescription drug plan, and the clout of working together. She urged the County to become a member of this committee.

Freeholder Simmermon commented on the monies owed by the County of Salem, which is approximately 25 million dollars in Pilesgrove Township. That number is closer to 7.5 million. It is important to know that every time we bond we are putting the County further in debt.

During the Public Portion of the meeting, Mr. Dubois commented on the un-lined roads on and around route 540. He also noted that brush around intersections needs to be cleaned up for sight purposes.

Cherri Pettit commented on the Farmland preservation plan and the open space plan. She inquired who the plan goes through, to which Freeholder Timberman responded that she is responsible and the plan can be sent for various parties for consideration. She further asked who is going to the Farm conference. The Director responded that Bill Stoms and Andy Busby were attending. She thanked Freeholder Simmermon for setting up the spinach demonstration. She then asked concerning the resolutions prepared and the role of the committee. Clerk of the Board, Earl Gage responded and explained the process in detail. She also questioned the amount of questions a Freeholder can pose, to which Director Ware stated that this is covered in the Rules of the Board adopted by the Board.

Deputy Director Bobbitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Freeholder Sullivan. The motion carried a vote of 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Earl R. Gage
Clerk of the Board/Administrator